hatance awimming is the rage this and all the world over those who he perilous sport are busy preparing seives for their various feats. From and comes word that Montague Holhas made several attempts to . English Channel, is training hard. her he thinks the water has reached coner temperature he will try once to recent years, and in fact since was successful, Holbein has made the On one occasion he came ouple of miles of accomplishing but had to give up on account of cold. In short, every time Holbein ged it was the cold streaks in the channel and gave him trouble, and it was much the and case with the other aspirants for fame n the same line.

That Holbein has the stamina to swim from England to France there is not much tout, and if he ever hits the water when temperature is right he will surely do But Holbein is not the only one than eve to Channel fame just now, and office the present season wanes there may he half a dozen attempts by others. Already one has taken place. Jabez Wolffe, Scotch amateur, tried recently and was found wanting. The keen ones of the old ridon aquatic matters offered the opinion t was too early for the test and that the Scotchman would find the water a little too chilly. The prediction came true, for a long way from the goal he had to give up on account of the cold.

While there are no channel swims in America there will be a number of events nearly as trying, the longest being the from the Battery to Coney sland. Next in importance is the Huckleberry swim of the New York A. C. Boston and St. Louis are down for big events, while in the quarters where swimming is at all in vogue there is nothing talked of but long distance events even. The craze has reached Australia, but this is not to be wondered at, for down there the people stay for hours and hours in the water.

Without doubt at the present day the greatest natural swimmers are in parts of Australia and the South Sea Islands. From these islands came the crawl stroke, a wrinkle which has completely revolutionized speed swimming in every part of the globe. These natives of the South Sea Islands begin to swim at a very early age and it might be said are all their lives at home in the water. As a rule they go into the water three times a day. At first they take a dip in fresh running water if it is near and imprediately afterward make a dash Ridge he and and women go in together, by the disport around and frolic after he fashion of tritons and naials.

A visitor to Tahitian waters describe a picture he saw there one morning. It was the dawn of a day on one of those beautiful mornings which more commonly inspire mets than sailors. A waft of wind from shore brought a delicious perfume and made the surface of the water wrinkle. The mountains, covered with forests, reared their gigantic heads, upon which was already visible the faint beams of the rising sun. Nearer to the shore was a line of gently sloping hills and wooded like the mountains, and the plain below was treed with bread fruit trees and palms. Half a mile from the shore the billows ou ided against a reef of rocks, but within

was all calm and still as death. Soon, however, the daylight began to creep over the sky, and one by one the islanders began to come out. At the sight of the vessel in the bay they quickly launched their boats and in a jiffy were circling about the ship. In a short time a number of young Tahitian girls entered the water and began disporting themselves, their naked breasts and dishevelled hair making them look like sirens. After capering about for a while they headed for the ship and would dive into the sea after glass heads or other trifles thrown from the deck. reen over the sky, and one b one the

It was not with the intention of inducing them to show off their powers as swimmers that in the first instance the ornaments were flung to them. One of the officers in handing some trifling articles to a child about 6 years of age happened to let them fall into the sea, when the youngster at once, leaping out of the canoe, dived for them and reappeared with them in a few seconds. Observing these feats with astonishment and wishing to see further proofs of the expertness of the natives more ornaments were thrown into the water. Not only did the men and women easily catch the objects thrown in but big nails were brought up, although they must have sunk a considerable depth before being caught by the divers. It was not with the intention of inducing

siderable depth before the divers.

Some remained so long in the water that the visitors could hardly help regarding them as amphibious. These South Sea Islanders were just as much at their case when, instead of sporting in tranquil seas, they found themselves in stormy with the waves raging against the sides with the waves raging against the sides with the sides waters, they found themselves in stormy waters, with the waves raging against reefs or thundering upon shore. The spectacle was then of quite a different kind, the surf rolling in at a prodigious height, breaking upon the beach. Those who looked on never saw such billows. It was their opinion that ordinary lifeboats could not live in such a sea, while the most able European swimmer would he most able European swimmer would nevitably have perished, either choked by he billows or crushed to death against the

Shore.

But the Tahitians seemed perfectly needless of the raging element, and when the waves rushed down upon them they dived through the fierce swell and came up on the other side with incredible ease and agility. What rendered this spectacle even more striking was the fact that the swimmers, finding in the water the stern of an old cance, seized it and pushed it before them for a considerable distance. Then two or three would get upon it and en two or three would get upon it and ming the square end toward the waves to driven ashore with amazing speed. driven ashore with amazing speed, cere, indeed, sometimes cast upon the K. Generally, however, the wave broke them before they got half way, when would drive and reappear on the other but they never let go their hold on it do not let an again a swimmer I go to land to rest, after which he return again to take part in the sport, the present day and in fact at all times cost expert swimmers were the intents of the seacoast and islands, is the Greeks, the Athenians, and tally the inhabitants of the Island of the were the best swimmers, and their tere the best swimmers, and their merged into a proverb. Socrates, g able to explain certain g able to explain certain passage litus the philosopher which seemed scure and conflicting, exclaimed one's way amid so many reefs

> story of aquaties abound in aclong distance swims, but two forgotten are those of Leander Hellespont and Lord Byron, ted him several centuries aftery a young and beautiful priestess To. She lived at Sestos, upon the thero. She lived at Sestos, upon the spont, on the European shore, while let dwelt at Abydos, on the opposite a Asiatic coast. In order to see his and converse with her Leander swam ledespont every evening, spent a while life and then swam back again. This the there would kindle a beacon in the summit of her tower as a guidant for her lover, and if the wind happing light with her robe. This was each night without fail, for she knew

that Leander felt no fear so long as the flame invited him onward.

But one fatal night, however, she forgot to flash her spark and she was cruelly punished for her thoughtlessness. Her lover, losing sight of the beacon on the tower and unable to contend against the darkness and the currents, yielded up his last breath to the waves. On the following morning Hero saw the white limbs of Leander gleaming on the shore, and in horror and despair jumped into the sea, inviting the fate to which her lover had succumbed.

Ever since the curious have speculate

inviting the fate to which her lover had succumbed.

Ever since the curious have speculated why Leander instead of swimming the Hellespont nightly did not paddle across in a boat. It may have been a little more expensive, but it would certainly be less dangerous and fatiguing. However, those who were keen at drawing conclusions from the classics agree that there was a strong reason why Leander swam instead of using a boat. To be seen rowing across would mean the publication of his amour with the fair lady to the world. He decided on the less attractive method. But be this as it may, it is sufficient, upon the authority of Ovid and Musseus, that it was Leander's practice to swim to and from the opposite bank where Hero lived.

It is by no means necessary that the narratives of poets and other romancers be taken strictly as articles of faith, yet each may decide as he pleases on the merits of the fine old story. But it seems that the important point discussed was whether the feat was possible and not whether Leander really crossed the Hellespont by swimming. The distance from Abydos to Sestos was thirty stades, or in English statute measure about three miles and three-quarters. For Leander to swim this distance twice a night is a hard thing to believe, and in view of these figures many of the less sceptical have relegated the performance to the domain of fable.

Others there are who go a long way to try to prove that the tale is no myth. According to them it was only natural that Leander should seek to shorten his journey as much as possible, so he walked along the seashore to a point opposite where Hero lived. By good luck the width of the Hellespont is much diminished at this point, being only seven stades or about 1,300 yards. But it is remarkable that none of the critics who calmly discussed the probable authenticity of the performance showed the least inclination to find out whether it was possible to swim the Hellespont by attempting to duplicate the feat of Leander. Seemingly it was the best plan of removi

throw light upon a long disputed question

--what Homer meant when he termed the
Hellespont apeiros, which is infinite, without limit. If any of the ancients emulated Leander's If any of the ancients emulated Leander's performance it is not recorded, and in the long lapse of centuries only one man was successful. That was Lord Byron; and his bare object in risking his life was to find out whether the Leander tale was a myth or a reality. The English poet's attempt took place on May 3, 1810, and he was attended by only one man—his friend Lieut. Ekenhead. It took the swimmer exactly one hour, and a line drawn straight across from where he started to where he finished would measure a mile and 370 yards. Acwould measure a mile and 370 yards. According to the accounts Byron was driven a lot out of his way by the force of the currents, so that he actually swam twice the distance. the distance.

If this was the case Lord Byron was a swimmer of the front rank, especially when it is remembered that he swam the breast it is remembered that he swam the breast stroke, and of course knew nothing about crawls, trudgeons or the old racing side stroke—the subsequent speedier methods of locomotion in the water. In a note to his "Bride of Abydos" Byron deals with the use of the word apeiros and its meaning. He says: "The wrangling about the epithet the 'broad Hellespont,' or the 'Boundless Hellespont,' whether it means one or the other, or what it means at all, has fallen beyond the possibility of detail. I have even heard it disputed on the spot, and not foreseeing a speedy conclusion to the controversy, amused myself with swimming across it in the meantime, and probably may do so again before the point is settled. Indeed, the question as to the truth of the 'tale of Troy divine' still continues, much of it resting upon as to the truth of the 'tale of Troy divine' still continues, much of it resting upon the use of the talismanic word aperos. Probably Homer had the same notion of distance that a coquette has of time, and when he talks of boundless, means half a mile; as the coquette, by a figure, when she says eternal attachment, simply specifies three weeks."

It was a pratty sharp thoust for the lane

It was a pretty sharp thrust for the lan.e poet to give the blind one. But Byron did not keep his promise about swimming the Hellespont again, for he was taken with a violent fever after his first swim and was confined to his bed for a long time. Byron himself alludes to his emulation of Leander thus:

"Twas hard to say who fared the best, Sad mortals, thus the godsstill plague you He lost his labor, I my jest,
For he was drowned, and I've the ague."

Me lost his labor, I my jest,
For he was drowned, and I've the ague."

As might naturally be expected, Byron's swim and the prominence it brought him es an athlete created lots of jealousy, and not a few attempted to belittle the performance. Among the poet's detractors was an Englishman named Turner, who attempted to cross the Hellespont from Asia to Europe. But he found that Byron's achievement was no fluke, for after being twenty-five minutes in the water he was forced to turn back and reached the shore breathless and exhausted. On his return to England Turner was still jealous of Byron and pointed out that the poet tackled the easiest part of the job—that of swimming from Europe to Asia, instead of the opposite direction, which was harder. Byron replied to the attack with a powerful letter which completely knocked the wind out of Turner and the controversy ended then and there.

For a number of years subsequently Byron was looked upon as the best swimmer in Europe, and not a man came forward to dispute his supremacy. Finally in 1818, when his powers were supposed to be on the decline, Byron was challenged by Mengaldo, an Italian and an attache of the French consulate at Venice. It was a strange coincidence that, like Byron, the Italian was lame. However, a match was arranged, and there was an additional starter, a friend of Byron, who volunteered to take part in the fray.

The starting point was at the Lido, at the mouth of the lagoon. They swam a steady stroke and were about even as far as Venice, but at the entrance to the Grand Canal the Italian cried that he had enough and he was taken out of he water. Byron's friend struggled on as far as the Rialto, where he quit. As to Byron himself, he ploughed through the whole of the Grand Canal through Venice, and never halted until he went to one of the islands at the other side of the town.

and never halted until he went to one of the islands at the other side of the town. of the islands at the other side of the town. He had swum for four hours and twenty minutes without any sort of nourishment and very litte rest and did not exhibit the least sign of fatigue at the end of his journey. After coming out of the water, Byron said, he had strength enough left to go back over the same course. He was then 30 years of age. years of age.

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wool.

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Leave Pier 1, N. R., half hour later than 22d St.
Returning—Leave Iron Pier, Coney Island, "10:40, "11:25 A. M., 12:10, "12:55, "1:40, 2:55, 3:40, 4:25, 5:26, 6:10, 7:10, 7:755, "8:40, "9:25, "1:01, 10:43 P. M.
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Manhattan Beach Leave N. Y., foot E. 34th st., Sundays, 7.00, 8.20, 9.10, 10.10, 11.10 A. M., 12.10, 1.10, 2.10, 2.40, 3.10, 3.40, 4.10, 4.40, 5.10, 5.40, 6.10, 6.40, 7.10, 7.50, 8.40, 9.10, 10.10 P. M

PATTEN LINE

WEEK DAAS.

Leave Bloomfield st., three blocks below West
14th st., 8.00 A. M., 8.35 A. M., 11.90 A. M. and 2.40
F. M. Leave Battery, 8.30 A. M., 9.20 A. M., 11.30
A. M. and 3.10 P. M.

SUNDAY.

Leave Bloomfield street, three blocks below
West 14th st., 8.55 A. M., 9.20 A. M., 9.45 A. M. and
10.40 A. M. Leave Battery, 9.20 A. M., P.45 A. M.,
10.10 A. M. and 11.10 A. M.

the Excursion 50c. Tickets.

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2.4.00, °9.5.00, 5.30, m°6.00, *7.00, °8.00, °9.00, p10.30
p. m., 1°12.15 mdt.

BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON.—z°1.30, °8.00

2°10.00, °12.00, °2.00, 1°4.00, 1°6.00, °7.00,

LAKEWOOD AND LAKEHURST—z4.00, 10.00 a. m.,

2.30 p. m. 2.30 p. m. ATLANTIC CITY-*10.00 a. m., x1.00, p2.30, k8.40 ATLANTIC CITY—"10.00 a. m., x1.00, p2.30, k3.40 p. m.

ALL RAIL ROUTE—Long Branch, Asbury Park, Ocean Grove (Sundays, North Asbury Park), z4.00, 8.30, 11.30 a. m., cx12.40, x1.20, 1.30, 3.30 b0f4.38, g4.45, b5.15, 5.30, 5.30, j12.01. Sundays, except Ocean Grove, z3.30, 9.15, 70.00 a. m., 4.09, 8.30 p. m.

SANDY HOOK ROUTE—Atlantic Highlands, Seabright, Monmouth Beach, Long Branch, Asbury Park and Ocean Grove, Leave Pier 81, N. R. (42d St.), 2.60, 9.35, 10.30 a. m., 12.30, 1.30, 3.00, 3.30, 7.45 p. m. Leave Pier 10, N. R. (Cedar St.), 2.00, 10.00, 11.00, 2.00, 3.35, 4.45, 6.60, 8.10, Sundays, 9.30, 10.30 a. m., 1.30, 4.00, 8.10 p. m.

8.10. Sundays, 9.30, 10.30 a. m., 1.30, 4.00, 8.10 p. m.
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Pennsylvania Aug. 17, 11 a.m.; Kalserin (new) Sept. 3
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*Plymouth—Cherbory—Souths inpton.

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**BONTO N - A ZONES.- ME EDITERRA NEA N.
**ROMANIC... Sept. 14. 3 P. M.: Oct. 26. Dec. 3
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